



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
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PHIL BREDESEN
Governor

VIRGINIA T. LODGE
Commissioner

**TCDHH COUNCIL MEETING
League for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Friday, November 5, 2010**

Members Present: Terry Smith, Thom Roberts, Lordy Smith, Margie Ulrich, Kim Dance, Summer Chappell, Dana Hughes (Chair), Paulette Melton (Vice-Chair), Michael Friedman, and Alan Mealka

Members Not Present: Andrea Cooper, Lygia Williams, and Deborah Harris

Call to Order

At approximately 9:09 a.m. the meeting was called to order.

Review of Minutes

The Council members were asked if they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Being confirmed, the Council was then asked to approve these minutes. If approved, minutes stand as the official record of the previous meeting on August 27, 2010.

- ✓ Individual Action: Motion made by Kim Dance and seconded by Michael Friedman for the minutes to stand as the official record of the previous meeting on May 14, 2010.
- ✓ Member Action: The Council voted verbally with all ayes, no nays.
Motion Carried.

Vocational Rehabilitation Report

Terry Smith

- ❖ The State of Tennessee has a new Governor and for now business will continue as usual.
- ❖ All of the video phones that were ordered for the VR Counselors for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have been delivered and installed except one.
- ❖ The Federal Fiscal Year closed with the fewest number of closures ever. Counselors for the Deaf achieved 97% of their goal.
- ❖ The Division of Rehabilitation Services continues to work on the new electronic case management system which will bring a totally paperless system to the division. Full implementation is expected July 1, 2011.
- ❖ Strategic planning is under way with the development of effective strategies to be more efficient, cost effective and to focus our energies.

Council Member Reports

➤ Alan Mealka –

- School is back in session in both East and West Tennessee and we have an historic number of children attending.
- TSD's homecoming was October 30. We had hundreds of alumni attend and everyone had a great time.
- Our annual statewide workshop on deafness will be November 6 and our annual pancake breakfast is scheduled for November 24.

➤ Kim Dance -

- Sharon Bryant and I met with two State Senators to discuss the mental health program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.
- Jennifer (Jenn) Ulschak has joined Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Systems as their new Mental Health Counselor for Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients.
- NAD will have three presentations at the 2011 Early Hearing Detection Intervention conference.

➤ Michael Friedman –

- I have been attending various activities for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Dining group has interaction with hearing individuals.
- There is a gentleman in Chattanooga who wishes to open a community center where the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can gather to have coffee, meetings, events, etc. He is looking for a place that might be suitable for a community center and is in need of community support.
- I have also been trying to get interpreters involved at the local churches and events.

➤ Lordy Smith –

- I assisted with and attended the Tennessee Deaf Expo. There were close to 500 participants and it was very successful.
- The Memphis Chapter, Black Deaf Advocates (MCBDA) had their annual Labor Day Picnic on September 4. Approximately 50 people attended.
- In October, Deaf Connect sponsored an interpreter workshop. They plan to have monthly workshops to help train more interpreters.
- The East Memphis Quota Club will have their annual Fall Festival and Fashion Show on November 6.
- Some of the Memphis Chapter, Black Deaf Advocates (MCBDA) group plan to attend the Choir Concert in Chicago on December 17.

- **Dana Hughes –**
 - November 20 is the next Town Hall Meeting which will be in Knoxville. Jackson’s Town Hall Meeting will be in January.
 - I recommend that Kim Dance be appointed at the Chair of the Legislative Committee.
- **Paulette Melton –**
 - I have been actively supporting the Deaf Awareness activities.
 - I have also been working on issues with voting for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- **Summer Chappell –**
 - The RID Region 2 Conference was held July 29 through August 1. It was a great conference with around 200 in attendance. We had great workshops and all had a wonderful time.
 - TRID is busy with various workshops and events.
 - TRID’s structure is going to be changing. We are trying to make sure we are in compliance and following all the RID rules.
 - RID Region 2 and RID Region 3 both had huge losses due to the economy. We are brainstorming to find ways to recoup the funds that were lost.
 - The Nashville TRID, Jackson and Memphis workshops are coming up monthly.
- **Margie Ulrich –**
 - I have brought each council member a gift bag with several brochures in it regarding hearing loss and hearing aids. I have also included a list of possible low cost solutions. Please feel free to share this information.
 - There are some things to consider when purchasing a hearing aid: If it is not comfortable, it won’t be worn, all companies make four ranges of aids and if they only sell one kind, your choices have diminished, and the smaller the aid, the fewer features it will have and the more expensive it will be.
- **Lygia Williams (read by Thom Roberts)–**
 - The Department of Mental Health is working on a 2-3 page fact sheet on Deaf Culture that I’ll be distributing to Mental Health councils which include all of the mental health centers plus other providers and advocates. Please submit your ideas to me at lygia.williams@tn.gov.
 - The Department had their every other year site visit by SAMHSA and faired very well.
 - The Jason Foundation now has their curriculum done for deaf young people. Their website is www.jasonfoundation.org
 - I have done several gatekeeper trainings and included awareness about deaf culture. We haven’t received concrete information but do know that suicide is a threat to all cultures.

Executive Director’s Report

September

7

TN Suicide Prevention Network event, “Healing for Yesterday, Educating Today, and Hope for Tomorrow” at Centennial Park

27-29

Tested out the new DRS Loop/FM System at a conference

October

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|---------|--|
| 2 | Tri-Cities Deaf Awareness Banquet sponsored by the Northeast Tennessee Deaf Activities Group (NETDA). Featured Speaker |
| 11 | Disability Determination Services TTY and Relay Training |
| 14 | TSPN Regional Meeting |
| 15 - 19 | Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (Louisville, KY) |
| 30 | TN Organization of the Deaf-Blind Quarterly Meeting |

Other services rendered during this time included coordination of programs and services regarding telecommunications, sign language interpreting, hearing aids, job placement opportunities, and other assistance for those who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind.

Some projects that are in the process:

- Autumn VR Counselor Training for those who have Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients
- Attending a Transition Workshop in Charlotte, NC presented by PEPNet South
- Coordinating the SERID 2012 Conference
- Creating a presentation for the training of our interpreters
- Creating a presentation regarding Hard of Hearing issues

Center Director Reports

- **CCDHH – Jessica Harrison** -
 - We have celebrated Deaf Awareness Week through various activities and have enjoyed each and every one.
 - We are hosting several technology training workshops in the community.
 - Becky Allen from DLAC continues to educate the community about communication needs.
- **KCD – Bob Rittenhouse** -
 - We will be installing a new on-line scheduling program to assist with interpreting needs.
 - KCD will soon receive its first check from LifeLinks. KCDVRS volume appears to be high and there is much anticipation within the Deaf Community.
 - The new VR-supported jobs program is in full swing. We have received 15 referrals from VR, with seven of the 15 having completed pre-employment training and two being employed.
- **JCIL – Amy Cone** –
 - JCIL held their first DAW Business Luncheon on September 22. There were approximately 18 attending. We look forward to making this an annual event.
 - Our DAW Festival was September 25 and we had approximately 70 people attending this event.
 - New Executive Director, Beth James joins us on November 15. We look forward to working with Beth.
- **Bridges – Sallie Hussey**-
 - Our building is now officially for sale and the Board of Directors has appointed a committee to research potential new locations.
 - We are still in the process of interviewing for a new Youth Center Manager and a part-time Marketing and Special Projects Coordinator.
 - We are in stage two of evaluating our services and programs via a community survey. This will help determine whether or not there is a real need for specific services/programs.

- **PFCA – Linda Lawson –**
 - Chattanooga is losing a Case Manager but we are in the process of interviewing for the vacancy.
 - With the upcoming holidays, we are involved with several activities in our community. We will be sponsoring 8-10 needy families.
- **Deaf Connect – Randy Chappell -**
 - Deaf Connect has been busy this Fall with updating their website, recruiting board members, holding workshops, and reviewing and updating Personnel procedures.
 - We are trying to get a member of the Memphis Grizzlies to commit for nomination as a board member.
 - Deaf Connect recently had their audit and everything looked good.

Committee Reports

- **Communication Committee**, Summer Chappell –
 - I attended the Deaf Expo and there were 498 in attendance. I spoke with VRSCA.
 - We are still working on licensure for interpreters and are in contact with other States regarding their regulations.
- **Legislative Committee**, Vacant – no report.
- **Education Committee**, Deborah Harris – no report.
- **Social Welfare**, Lygia Williams – no report.

Old Business/New Business

- **Old:**
 - There was no old business.
- **New:**
 - Kim Dance was nominated as the Chair for the Legislation Committee and accepted the nomination. The council voted to accept Kim as the Chair.
 - Three council members' terms will expire in April. Two of the expiring terms are TAD nominees and we will need to have two nominees from TAD to replace the two expiring terms. All three nominations are due by January.
 - Council meetings for the upcoming year are as follows:
 - February 25, 2011
 - May 13, 2011
 - August 12, 2011
 - November 4, 2011

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman, Dana Hughes at 12:05 P.M.